

# Community Analysis

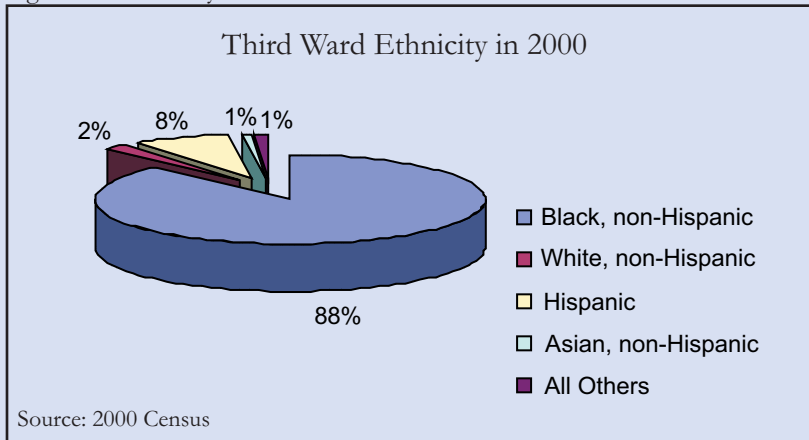
### Population/Age

Within the study area boundaries, the 2000 Census reported the population to be 9,364. Of householders, 20 percent were between the ages of 15 and 25, 45 percent were between the ages of 35 and 59, and 35 percent were 60 years or older.

### Race/Ethnicity

The Third Ward is historically, and remains today, a predominately African-American community. African-Americans make up 88 percent of the population. Hispanics comprise eight percent of the population and all other groups represent four percent.

Figure 2.1 Ethnicity in 2000



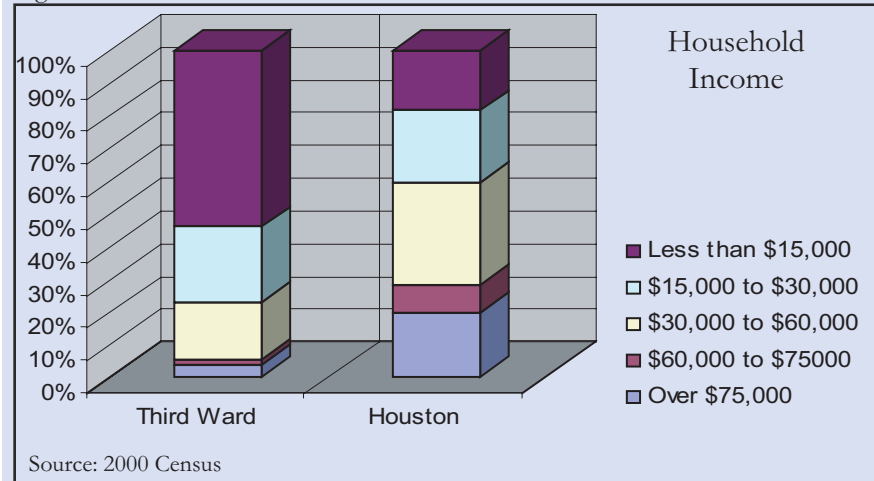
### Household Income

The Third Ward is a relatively poor neighborhood compared to the City as a whole.

- The 2000 median income of households (\$14,724) for the study area is significantly lower than the median income for the City of Houston households (\$36,616).

- More than half of households (54%) earned less than \$15,000 a year. This is almost triple the percentage of households in this income category citywide (18%).

Figure 2.2 Household Income 2000



### Housing

The Third Ward is an older neighborhood with housing stock that was generally constructed more than 50 years ago. Renters occupy the majority of homes and a high percentage of homes are abandoned.

- There are 4,485 housing units in the Third Ward study area, of which 19 percent are vacant. The vacancy rate is more than double the rate for the entire city (8%).
- The Third Ward study area has a high renter rate of 79 percent. Conversely, only 21 percent of the homes in the neighborhood are owner-occupied, which is half the rate for the City (46%).

- Most of the homeowners (50%) are over the age of 55, while nearly 70 percent of the renters are under the age of 55.
- Between 2000 and 2003, only 22 permits for new homes have been issued. In contrast, during this time, 95 structures were demolished.
- Nearly 5 percent of the structures lack plumbing and kitchen facilities, which is higher than the city rate of 1.1 percent.

### Land Use

A significant portion (44%) of land in the study area is single family residential. Only 6 percent of the land is used for commercial uses. The high percentage of land being used for institutional use (18%) is attributed to the fact that the University of Houston's main campus and Texas Southern University are both located in the Third Ward area.

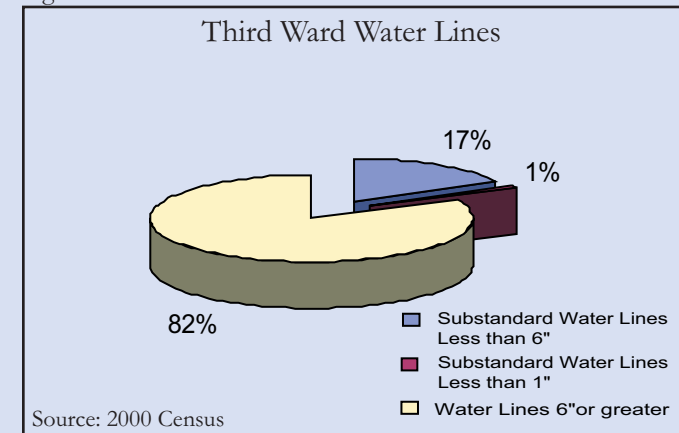


Mayor Bill White speaks about affordable housing issues.

### Infrastructure

A significant percentage (17%) of the water lines in the neighborhood is less than 6 inches and thus considered substandard. See Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3 Third Ward Water Lines



Planning and Development Director Bob Litke answers questions from participants.

